

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Claims 19-20 have been added to more fully claim the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-18 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wasilewski (US Pat No 5420866)

Applicants submit that for the reasons discussed below present claims 1-5 and 7-18 are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Wasilewski.

The present invention relates to conditional access system, which can receive and decode content from multiple sources, including local content (e.g., a broadcast conditional access (CA) system and a local copy protection (CP) system). "Local content" refers to content that is decoded, received and stored in a recording device such as a digital videocassette recorder (DVCR) or other digital means, and which is later selected for viewing (also know as 'time-shifted content') within a local environment, such as a digital home network. Since broadcast CA content is typically only authorized for the time it is received, 'time-shifted' or 'local' content needs to be re-authorized at the time of viewing; a copy protection (CP) scheme provides this 'local' protection.

The present invention provides a method for accessing content sent by a conditional access (CA) provider as well as receive and decode local copy protected content. In an embodiment of the invention, content from a service provider is accessed using conditional access entitlement control messages (CA ECMs) and local content is accessed using local entitlement control messages (LECMs). The invention recognizes that in accessing content from different conditional access sources, for example a broadcast source or a local source, an apparatus receives packet identifiers associated with the various entitlement control messages, including local entitlement control messages. In that regard, the

invention provides for identifying an extracted pair of packet identifiers according to a predefined convention where a received packet identifier pairs includes a conditional access entitlement control message identifier and a local entitlement control message identifier. Accordingly, claim 1 recites:

automatically identifying one of the extracted pairs according to a predefined convention,
wherein a first one of the received pairs includes a conditional access entitlement control message identifier and a second one of the received pairs includes a local entitlement control message identifier

Applicants submit that nowhere does Wasilewski disclose or suggest the above-mentioned limitations of claim 1.

Wasilewski teaches a digital broadcast satellite system 10 that includes an uplink site 8 for transmitting audio/visual (A/V) content to a satellite 203. From the satellite 203, the A/V content is transmitted to a plurality of subscriber locations (set top boxes) 201. Although only one such subscriber location 201 is shown in Figure 2, it will be recognized that any number of subscriber locations 201 may exist, depending upon the number of subscribers of the network.

Wasilewski specifically teaches combining the content of several different service providers on the transmit side into a single data stream. Wasilewski also teaches a method for identifying the content of a particular service provider by identifying a conditional access system ID (CA_System_ID) associated with the provider (see col. 12, lines 12-16). Wasilewski specifically discusses the fact that each separate service provider will use a separate decoder (set top box) to descramble their own particular transmissions (see, for example, col. 5, lines 1-17 and col. 11, line 43 to col. 12 line 26). Thus, Wasilewski is concerned with combining several different conditional access systems on the transmit side.

Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest a single receiver which can receive and decode different content provided by the separate conditional access service providers. In fact, Wasilewski specifically points out that separate decoders are needed to descramble the content of the different providers (see col. 11, lines 48-53). Moreover, Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest providing separate conditional access systems for broadcast as opposed to local content (e.g., CA

and CP systems). As such, Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest packet identifiers pairs wherein one of the pairs includes a conditional access entitlement control message identifier and another of the pairs includes a local entitlement control message identifier, and automatically identifying extracted packet identifier pairs according to the predefined convention as recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action cites col. 5, line 31 - col. 6, line 36 of Wasilewski as disclosing the feature of automatically identifying at least one of the extracted pairs according to a predefined convention. However, this portion describes the steps of assigning a unique packet ID to designated conditional access information, inserting the packet ID into the transport packets associated with the conditional access information and generating a table that specifies the packet ID of the transport packets associated with the conditional access information (col. 5, lines 44 - 62; col. 6, lines 6-30). The receiver identifies the packet ID by looking up the corresponding information in the transmitted table. Thus, applicants submit that the cited portion of Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest the above-mentioned limitation of amended claim 1.

The Office Action also cites col. 17, lines 20-43, and fig. 5 of Wasilewski. In that regard, claim 1 has been amended to recite "... a first one of the received pairs includes a conditional access entitlement control message identifier and a second one of the received pairs includes a local entitlement control message identifier..." The cited portion of Wasilewski describes the process of identifying the PIDs of the packets that carry the ECM, and extracting the packets that have a PID value that matches the desired PID. However, nowhere does Wasilewski disclose or suggest packet identifier pairs, wherein a first one of the pairs includes conditional access entitlement control message identifier and a second one of the received pairs includes a local entitlement control message identifier. As discussed above, Wasilewski is concerned with a different problem than that addressed by the present invention, and simply fails to disclose or suggest the features of amended claim 1. Therefore, applicants submit that Wasilewski fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1, and thus, amended claim 1, and claims 2-3, which depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Wasilewski.

Claims 4 has been amended to recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to amended claim 1, and thus, claim 4, and claims 5-16, which depend therefrom, are also believed to be not anticipated by Wasilewski for at least the same reasons as those applied to claim 1.

Claims 17 and 18 recite the feature "... if only one service and entitlement control message packet identifier pair is extracted, identifying the extracted pair as either a local entitlement control message or a broadcast entitlement control message based on type information associated with the extracted packet identifier pair..." As discussed above, Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest processing different entitlement control messages, including a local entitlement control message. Thus, applicants submit that Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest identifying the extracted pair based on type information as recited in claims 17 and 18, and as such, the subject claims are not anticipated by Wasilewski.

New claim 19 recites "...determining whether a particular one of the identified service and entitlement control message packet identifier pairs is associated with one of a conditional access entitlement control message of a service provider and a local entitlement control message of a local network based on a predefined convention related to an ordering of the service and entitlement control message packet identifier pairs within the datastream..." As discussed above, Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest processing different entitlement control messages, including a local entitlement control message. Thus, applicants submit that Wasilewski fails to disclose or suggest the above cited limitation of claim 19, and as such, claims 19 and 20 are not anticipated by Wasilewski.


Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

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Please charge the \$200 fee for an additional independent claim, and any other costs that may be associated with the filing of this response, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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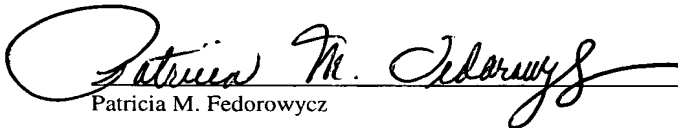
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Patricia M. Fedorowycz